

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please cancel claims 1 – 11 and add new claims 12-20.

1. (cancel) A method of reducing the mortality and morbidity in critically ill patients which comprises administering to the patients an effective amount of FGF-19.
2. (cancel) The method of Claim 1 wherein said critically ill patients are suffering from systemic inflammatory response syndrome.
3. (cancel) The method of Claim 1 wherein said critically ill patients are suffering from respiratory distress.
4. (cancel) The method of Claim 1 wherein the patients have acute lung injury.
5. (cancel) The method of Claim 1 wherein the patients have acute respiratory distress syndrome.
6. (cancel) The method of Claim 1 wherein the patients have multiple organ dysfunction syndrome.
7. (cancel) The method of Claims 1 wherein the patients have sepsis.
8. (cancel) The method of any one of Claims 1 through 7 wherein FGF-19 is administered via continuous infusion.
9. (cancel) The method of any one of Claims 1 through 7 wherein FGF-19 is administered via a bolus injection.
10. (cancel) The use of FGF-19 in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing the mortality and morbidity in critically ill patients.

11. (cancel) The use of FGF-19 in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing the mortality and morbidity associated with systemic respiratory response syndrome in critically ill patients.

12. (new) A method of reducing the mortality and morbidity in critically ill patients which comprises administering to the patients an effective amount of FGF-19.

13. (new) The method of Claim 12 wherein said critically ill patients are suffering from systemic inflammatory response syndrome.

14. (new) The method of Claim 12 wherein said critically ill patients are suffering from respiratory distress.

15. (new) The method of Claim 12 wherein the patients have acute lung injury.

16. (new) The method of Claim 12 wherein the patients have acute respiratory distress syndrome.

17. (new) The method of Claim 12 wherein the patients have multiple organ dysfunction syndrome.

18. (new) The method of Claim 12 wherein the patients have sepsis.

19. (new) The method of Claim 12 wherein FGF-19 is administered via continuous infusion.

20. (new) The method of Claim 12 wherein FGF-19 is administered via a bolus injection.